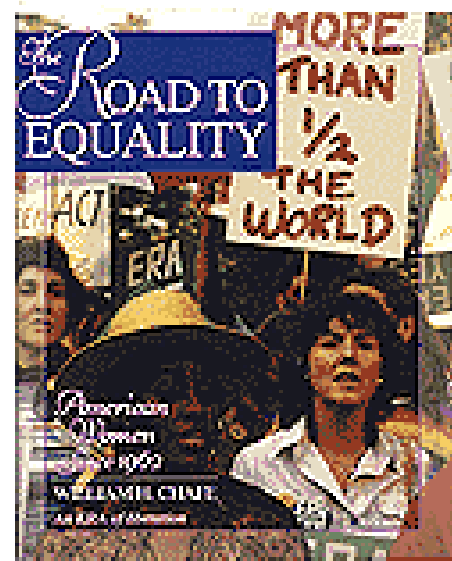
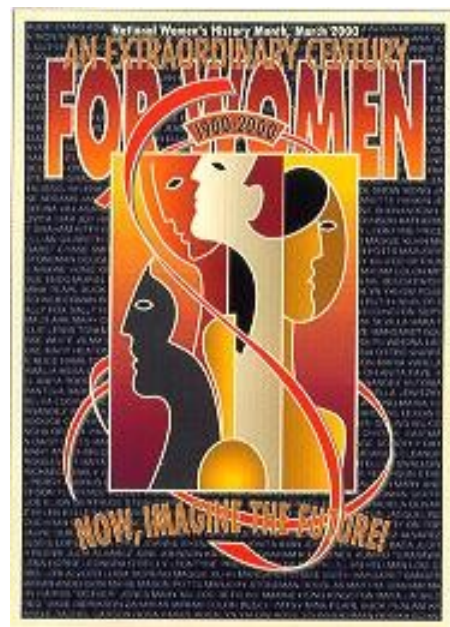


March is National Women's History Month





WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Last spring, three women astronauts paused during a shuttle mission to pay homage to the past. Thousands of miles into space, floating above the floor of the shuttle, they raised a women's suffrage banner and posed for a picture. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, a participant in this special tribute and a member of the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History, said, "We wanted to show how far women have come in this century and to honor the people who fought for our rights." Each year during the month of March, citizens across our country pause to honor the many heroes whose diligence and determination have helped to forge our Nation and enable people like Ellen Ochoa and her colleagues to soar so high.

Women's History Month is about highlighting the extraordinary achievements of women throughout our history, while recognizing the equally significant obstacles they had to overcome along the road to success. It is about the women who bravely donned uniforms and fought for our country. It is about the passion and vision of women educators like Mary McLeod Bethune, who, with only \$1.50 in her pocket, founded a school for young black women. It is about the perseverance and pioneering spirit of women like Margaret Chung, the first Chinese American woman physician, who supported herself through medical school by washing dishes and lecturing on China. It is about Alice Paul's fight for the vote and Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich's campaign to end discrimination against Alaska Natives. It is about the writings of Zora Neale Hurston, the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe, the leadership of labor organizer Dolores Huerta, and the trailblazing artistry of photographer Margaret Bourke-White. It is also about the millions of unsung women whose contributions have made life better for their families and their communities.

Inspired by the courageous pioneers who came before them, women today continue to shape our Nation's destiny. Last year, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins became the first woman commander of a space shuttle mission. American violinists Sarah Chang, Pamela Frank, and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg were the first women to take home the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize in its 25-year history. And, in a game attended by the largest crowd of all time for a women's sporting event, the U.S. women's soccer team captured the World Cup. Today, 58 women hold seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and 9 women are United States Senators. More women hold high-level positions in my Administration than in any other in history. And in the private sector, women own nearly 9 million small businesses, employing millions of Americans and contributing significantly to the strength of our economy.

As we honor the past and celebrate the present, we must also focus on the future. Our choices today will have an enormous impact on the destiny of our daughters and grand-daughters, our sons and grandsons. We must rededicate ourselves to forging a society in which gender no longer predetermines a person's opportunities or station in life. We must shatter the glass ceiling; eradicate wage discrimination; and ensure that every American has the tools to meet both family and work responsibilities and to retire in security. By breaking down the remaining barriers and opening wide the doors of opportunity, we can make the future brighter for women and for all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2000 as Women's History Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities and to remember throughout the year the many contributions of courageous women who have made our Nation strong.

William J. Clinton

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

fourteenth day of February, 2000.



Chief Wilma P. Mankiller

Chief Wilma P. Mankiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, was born in the Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She has deep roots in the rural community of Rocky Mountain in Adair County. She learned early the hardships of poverty in rural America, and also learned about the difficulties of urban poverty when, in 1957, she and her family were forced to move to San Francisco, California, as part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Relocation Program. In 1983, Wilma Mankiller was the first woman elected as Deputy Principal Chief for the Cherokee Nation. Following the resignation of the Principal Chief in 1985, she was selected for that high position of leadership--the first woman to ever hold such an office in any Indian Tribe. In 1987, she was elected to the

position by the organizations of the Cherokee Nation. Through her commitment and dedication to the improvement of the Cherokee people, Chief Wilma P. Mankiller has brought great prestige and honor to herself, to her family, to those who comprise the distinguished Cherokee Nation, and to Oklahoma.

Senator Bernice Shedrick Senator



Senator Bernice Shedrick of Stillwater was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1980, and currently chairs the Education Committee, and General Conference Subcommittee on Appropriations for Education. Committees on which she serves are Appropriations and Budget, Economic Development, Joint Committee on Federal Funds, Retirement, Judiciary, and Rules.

A Chickasha native, she received her bachelor's degree in education in 1969, and her master's degree in 1972, both from OSU, and was a classroom teacher from 1969-1980. In 1983 she received her jurist doctorate from the Oklahoma City university Law School, and she is a member of the Payne County Bar Association and the Oklahoma Bar Association.

She has been recognized for distinguished legislative service by The Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State Department of Vocational Education , and the Oklahoma Retired Teachers Association.

"The Oklahoma Observer" named Senator Shedrick as one of the Top Ten Legislators in 1984, 1989 and 1990, and in 1991 the Black Caucus of the Oklahoma Legislature presented her with the A.C. Hamlin Award.



Aung San Suu Kyi Activist

She was born on June 19, 1945 in Rangoon, Burma (now known as Yangon, Myanmar). She was two years old when her father was assassinated. He was the de facto prime minister of the soon to be independent Burma. She went to school in Burma until 1960, when her mother was appointed ambassador to India.

Events led her to speak out against the government and to begin a peaceful struggle for democracy and human rights. She co-founded the National League for Democracy (NLD), the main opposition party in Myanmar. The NLD won more than 80% of the parliamentary seats that were viable in 1990. The results were ignored by the military government, which refused to let the elected parliament convene. Aung San Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest where she was unable to communicate with anyone until 1995. She was released and given permission to leave the country quietly. Suu Kyi refused to do so until the country was returned to civilian government and political prisoners were freed.

Aung San Suu Kyi is a Burmese political leader. She won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize.

HOPPER, GRACE Admiral

mathematician (1906 - 1992)

She was the driver for modern US computer technology. Modern computer history began when Lt (JG) Hopper was assigned to work for Howard Aiken at Harvard in the late 1940s. She spent her career working for the US Navy. At her retirement she was the oldest person on active duty with the US Navy. She coined the term "computer bug" during her work with with first electronic computers when she found the moth that had shorted out two tubes. She invented the modern subroutine. She built the first A-O compiler which went live on November 4, 1952 on the UNIVAC I to predict the Eisenhower win after 7% vote returns. The Navy and the computer industry felt her work and contributions so valuable that they kept returning her to active duty after retirement.

She invented the for women's APT. She verified

the programming language pioneered in large part by women like

If computing has led the way in making men and women equal in the workplace, it is because the discipline was pioneered in large part by women like Grace Murray Hopper. What was true for Hopper is all the more true for women today because of her work.





Madame C.J. Walker

Millionaire In 1905, Madam C. J. Breedlove developed a conditioning treatment for straightening hair. Starting with door-to-door sales of her cosmetics, Madame C.J. Walker amassed a fortune. In 1910 she built a factory in Indianapolis to manufacture her line of cosmetics. Before her death in 1919 she was a millionaire, one of the most successful business executives in the early half of the twentieth century

Walker encouraged all people to support black philanthropic work. She made the single largest donation to the successful 1918 effort by the National Association of Colored Women to purchase the home of Frederick Douglass so it could be preserved as a museum. She contributed generously to the National Association of Colored People (NAACP), to homes for the aged in St. Louis and Indianapolis, to needy in Indianapolis (especially during Christmas time), and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Indianapolis. She funded scholarships for young women and men at Tuskegee Institute and contributed to Palmer Memorial Institute, a private secondary school for blacks in Sedalia, North Carolina, founded by her close friend Charlotte Hawkins Brown.



Shirley Ann Jackson

Physicist

Shirley Ann Jackson, noted physicist and head of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was one of the first two African-American women to receive a doctorate in physics in the United States and the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate in any field from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As a noted physicist, her work in the interaction of electrons on liquid helium films with surface excitations as a polaron problem gained her election as a fellow of the American Physical Society. As the first African-American woman to serve on the NRC and the first woman and African-American to lead that Commission, Jackson has articulated a vision reaffirming that agency's commitment to public health and safety. She has enhanced its regulatory effectiveness, and initiated a bottom-up strategic assessment, which is examining all NRC activities.

The numerous awards and honors Jackson has received affirm her leadership in education, science and public policy, and demonstrate the capability of women and minorities to join the leadership ranks in the fields of science and technology.



Ellen Ochoa (Ph.D) Astronaut

Born May 10, 1958 in Los Angeles, California, but considers La Mesa, California, to be her hometown. Married to Coe Fulmer Miles of Molalla, Oregon. They have one son. She is a classical flutist and private pilot, and also enjoys volleyball and bicycling. Her mother, Rosanne Ochoa, resides in La Mesa. His parents, Louis and Georgia Zak, reside in Waldport, Oregon.

Graduated from Grossmont High School, La Mesa, California, in 1975; received a bachelor of science degree in physics from San Diego State University in 1980, a master of science degree and doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 1981 and 1985, respectively. NASA awards include the Exceptional Service Medal (1997), Outstanding Leadership Medal (1995), Space Flight Medals (1999, 1994, 1993), and two Space Act Tech Brief Awards (1992). Recipient of numerous other awards, including the Women in Aerospace Outstanding Achievement Award, The Hispanic Engineer Albert Baez Award for Outstanding Technical Contribution to Humanity, the Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, and San Diego State University Alumna of the Year. Member of the Presidential Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History.